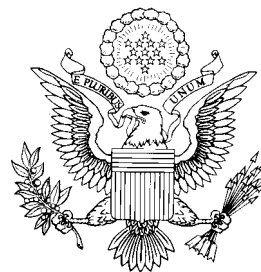


ARTICLE ALERT

May 2008



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民主与全球问题 Democracy and Global Issues

1. The Age of Nonpolarity: What Will Follow U.S. Dominance

Foreign Affairs , May/June 2008

Richard N. Haass

The United States' unipolar moment is over. International relations in the twenty-first century will be defined by nonpolarity. Power will be diffuse rather than concentrated, and the decline as that of nonstate actors increases. But this is not all bad news for the United States; Washington can still manage the transition and make the world a safer place.

2. The first 21st-century campaign

National Journal, vol. 40, no. 16, April 19, 2008

Brownstein, Ronald

Brownstein examines the many reasons why he believes that the Democratic battle for the presidential nomination will be remembered as “the first true 21st-century campaign.” He believes that the pairing of intense anti-Bush emotions on the part of Democrats combined with major advances in information technology are responsible for creating this new style of campaigning. Brownstein says “this transformation may be changing the model of what it takes to succeed in presidential politics.” No longer is television the most important medium, rather it is the ability to leverage the Internet to inspire supporters to fundraise and organize on a candidate’s behalf. The Democratic candidates’ capacity to raise money, ability to communicate with supporters at a low cost and capacity of supporters to communicate with like-minded people independently of the campaign has demonstrated the strengths of this new style of campaigning. Brownstein’s article provides numerous examples of both Barack Obama’s and Hillary Clinton’s successful campaign techniques.

3. New media as the message

National Journal, vol.40, no. 16, April 19, 2008, pp. 40-44

Simendinger, Alexis

National Journal staff writer Simendinger describes the Obama campaign's deft use of mainstream media to attract potential voters to its "offline" campaign network. Using text messaging and e-mail signals to young voters that Obama understands who they are and they should trust him, says political communications expert Kathleen Hall Jamison. The author quotes Arizona State University Professor Matthew Hindman, who adds that "Hillary Clinton would have been the nominee but for the Internet, and she would have secured the nomination -- as her campaign expected -- by Super Tuesday." Other experts wonder if the medium is as important as the message. All agree that the Internet, social networking and other new technologies for organizing potential voters will become even more important in future elections as young people rely less on mainstream media for news and political information.

4. International Public Opinion Says Government Should Not Limit Internet Access **WorldPublicOpinion.org**

A new poll of nations around the world finds worldwide support for the principle of media freedom and broad opposition to government having the right to limit access to the Internet. In many countries people want more media freedom than they have now, but in many Muslim countries and in Russia, there is substantial support for regulation of news or ideas that the government thinks could be politically destabilizing.

5. Climate Change and Tourism's Winners and Losers **YaleGlobal, 2 May 2008** **Eric Heymann**

the forces of globalization have now confronted the [tourism] industry with a new and serious challenge – that of climate change. It will require a series of long-term of adjustments and is bound to leave some winners and losers.

6. Ethanol and Other Biofuels: A Global Warming Solution Worse Than the Problem **The Heritage Foundation, May 2, 2008** **Ben Lieberman**

There are risks to global warming policy as well as risks to global warming, and although the former could be costlier than the latter, they are often neglected in climate change debate. While it may seem far-fetched to some that responding to the "climate crisis" could do more harm than good, it is in fact already happening. Consider the biofuels mandate, which is contributing to the very global warming problems it was designed to prevent.

7. Science 2.0 **Scientific American, vol. 298, no. 5, May 2008, pp. 69-73** **Waldrop, M. Mitchell**

Is posting raw results online for all to see a tool or a risk? Science 2.0 refers to the new practice of scientists posting raw experimental results, theories, claims of discovery and draft papers on the Web for others to see and comment on. Proponents say these "open access" practices make scientific progress more collaborative and productive. Critics say scientists who put preliminary findings online risk having others copy or exploit the work to gain credit or even patents. Despite pros and cons, Science 2.0 sites are starting to proliferate; one example is the OpenWetWare projects started by biological engineers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

8. Thinking locally before acting globally: the rise of selective provincialism **World Literature Today, vol. 82, no. 2, March/April 2008, pp. 34-39** **Messitte, Zach**

Messitte, Professor of Geopolitics at the University of Oklahoma, assesses a variety of contradictory trends in the world today – such as globalism vs. provincialism, democracy vs. autocracy, "McWorld vs. Jihad." He draws from a wide range of sources -- including writings

of public opinion makers, polls from Pew, and US government officials. He asserts that some of the concepts of globalism are supported by majorities around the world, but there are "real concerns about a growing borderless world where capital, labor, and ideas flow freely and are unfettered." Messitte's students are positive about the future, concluding that, in 20 years, they hope for "great leaps forward in transportation and science, an overall improvement in their quality of daily life, and freedom and democracy in more parts of the world."

经济贸易 Economics and Trade

9. Putting your money where your mouth is: how expensive is food, really?

Grist, posted April 14, 2008

Astyk, Sharon

The author, a farmer and writer on food, energy and sustainability issues, notes that skyrocketing food prices are creating widespread hardship, with many low-wage households spending half their income on food. In earlier agrarian societies, it was commonplace to spend a lot of money on food; low food prices of the past half century is an anomaly, generated by large-scale agriculture requiring massive energy and fertilizer inputs. However, Astyk notes that we cannot regard food prices in isolation from society as a whole; while food prices may have been low, the cost of housing has skyrocketed, and people must work long hours to pay for all the dependencies created by the modern industrial economy. Large-scale urbanization has meant that the price of land has become divorced from the value of what it can produce. Low food prices has meant low compensation for farmers — only a small number of massive agribusinesses are able to survive. The rise in food prices that has resulted from increased energy costs will eventually require a return to localized agriculture, which will benefit farmers, and will mean that land and house prices will have to return to a level at which they are tied to the value of the soil beneath them.

10. The micromagic of microcredit

Wilson Quarterly, vol. 32, no. 1, Winter 2008, pp. 27-31

Boudreaux, Karol; Cowen, Tyler

Is microcredit the solution to poverty in the world? No, say the authors, both with George Mason University. Although microcredit is undeniably making people's lives better around the world, it is not pulling them out of poverty. "It is hard to find entrepreneurs who start with these tiny loans and graduate to run commercial empires," they write. Many lenders refuse to extend microcredit to start-ups. "The more modest truth is that microcredit may help some people, perhaps earning \$2 a day, to earn something like \$2.50 a day," the authors say. Not a dramatic improvement, but definitely a step forward to a poor person in many third-world countries. An important advantage to microcredit is that unlike many charitable services, microcredit is capable of paying for itself. "The future of microcredit lies in the commercial sector, not in unsustainable aid programs," the authors say.

11. Law and transnational corruption: the need for Lincoln's law abroad
Law and Contemporary Problems, vol. 70, no. 4, Autumn 2007, pp. 109-138
Carrington, Paul

The author, a professor of law at Duke University, believes that the endemic corruption of weak governments in poor nations is a major impediment to the development of world trade. The World Bank reports that bribes totaling a trillion dollars were paid in 2002 while the larger share of that amount was undoubtedly paid by firms that extract and export natural resources for sale in the developed world. Bribery is endemic in many oil-producing developing nations, in which oil revenues have been appropriated by a small group of government officials. Now these same institutions have been invited to enact legislation or to ratify a treaty establishing the means for effective private enforcement of international laws forbidding corrupt practices. Such legislation is rooted in recognition of the frailties of government, and the limits of what can be asked of government lawyers in a fragmented social order. When developing nations are forced to rely on their public prosecutors to impose criminal punishment, corrupt practices can flourish. This reality is now widely acknowledged, but the responses of developed nations have not been adequate to address it.

12. Odious debt wears two faces: systemic illegitimacy, problems, and opportunities in traditional odious debt conceptions in globalized economic regims
Law and Contemporary Problems, vol. 70, no. 4, Autumn 2007, pp. 1-46
Backer, Larry C.

The author, a law professor at Pennsylvania State University, examines how the traditional notion of odious debt as a method of repudiating sovereign debt may undergo a conceptual revolution as it changes focus from the illegitimacy of governments obtaining loans to the illegitimacy of the systems through which such loans are made and enforced generally. The focus of this analysis is the conceptual framework Cuban leader Fidel Castro sought to introduce into the debate about the legitimacy of sovereign debt and the extent to which this reframing might influence international institutional approaches. The two faces of odious debt are a much more complicated development in global governance. With international capital systems now potentially subject to the same legitimacy expectations as private and municipal systems, the simpler days of binary contractual arrangements between states, or between states and private entities for the provision of capital, are soon to pass into history. As Castro has not tired of explaining, these global systems now have acquired the burdens of legitimacy once limited to state actors. Development of the odious debt doctrine, like sovereign-debt forgiveness, may be as good for the banks as it is for the borrower, as each seeks to maximize the strategic value of this doctrine.

13. What the Fed Could Learn from Europe's Central Bank
Spiegel Online, April 29, 2008
Christian Reiermann

Never before have the central banks of the United States and Europe pursued such divergent strategies when it comes to dealing with a financial crisis. The increased value of the euro against the dollar reveals which strategy is working.

14. Free Trade Agreements: Promoting Prosperity in 2008
The Heritage Foundation, May 2, 2008
Daniella Markheim

Despite more than five decades of evidence that freer trade promotes opportunity and prosperity, the impact of open markets on the U.S. economy and its workers remains a hot political issue.

国际安全 International Security

15. The Future of American Power: How America Can Survive the Rise of the Rest
Foreign Affairs , May/June 2008
Fareed Zakaria

Despite some eerie parallels between the position of the United States today and that of the British Empire a century ago, there are key differences. Britain's decline was driven by bad economics. The United States, in contrast, has the strength and dynamism to continue shaping the world -- but only if it can overcome its political dysfunction and reorient U.S. policy for a world defined by the rise of other powers.

16. Beyond Darfur: Sudan's slide toward civil war
Natsios, Andrew S.
Foreign Affairs, vol. 87, no. 3, May/June 2008, 77-93

While the crisis in Sudan's western Darfur remains in the spotlight, the former U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan calls attention to the lingering tensions that threaten to unravel the tenuous North-South peace; the plight of Sudan's Nubian minority; and the breakdown of yet another peace agreement between eastern Sudan's Beja and Rashaida communities, all of which conspire to make the free and fair 2008 elections key to the country's future and security in the broader region. The international community must continue to impress upon Khartoum the importance of addressing these challenges and avoiding another civil war, but even engagement may not be enough.

17. US policy towards North Africa: three overarching themes
Middle East Policy, vol. 14, no. 4, Winter 2007, pp. 55-66
Hemmer, Christopher

For decades the U.S. has lacked a coherent regional policy for North Africa, a trend that is beginning to change as ties with Libya and Algeria begin to improve. The author, professor at the Air War College, encourages policymakers to build a mature, more nuanced approach to the region, by offering a recent review of country-specific policy successes in the region. Continued support on common concerns such as terrorism will depend on willingness to help countries confront regional challenges and avoiding a tendency toward "with us or against us" diplomacy, supporting opposition within countries in the name of promoting democracy, even if they are not necessarily pro-American.

18. Putin's plan**Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 2, Spring 2008, pp. 117-129****Gaddy, Clifford; Kuchins, Andrew**

Gaddy, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, and Kuchins, director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Russia and Eurasia Program, write that the primary aim of Russia's electoral process has been to legitimize "Putin's Plan," ensuring a degree of continuity and stability after the end of Putin's presidency. Defined as the political course of President Putin, the concept has been around since 2000, although the term was introduced into the political vocabulary by the chairman of the United Russia party only in 2007. Rooted in a Western business theory studied by Putin when he was with the KGB, the principal idea is that true strategic planning has to take into account unforeseen changes by establishing "a hierarchical system of interrelated subplans that address different dimensions of the problems being faced." The strategic planner (CEO) is responsible for making needed adjustments but defines a course that appears stable and predictable to subordinates. According to Putin, Russian society needs unity and cohesion if it is to fulfill its destiny; that unity can best be guaranteed by the dominance of a single political party, United Russia. The growing economic power of Russia should be better reflected in the Bretton Woods institutions that manage the global economy. Long-term stability and predictability will continue to be vital to the Russian people, who "want their children to live better and their country to endure as a strong power" -- the goals of Putin's Plan.

19. Propaganda: can a word decide a war?**Parameters, vol. 37, no. 3, Autumn 2007, pp. 15-27****Murphy, Dennis M.; White, James F**

Murphy and White, of the U.S. Army War College, review the history of American propaganda efforts. It is difficult for the U.S. to balance the principles of a free, democratic society with the need to counter disinformation in an effort to establish credibility. Our adversaries have the advantage in an information environment uninhibited by the internal criticism of propaganda facing American leaders. Information power was previously limited to nation-states, but the Internet allows inexpensive, easily accessible propaganda, where messages can have an immediate impact. To counter these information attacks, America must react quickly, accurately, and with messages tailored to local populations.

美国社会及价值观 U.S. Society and Values**20. How Americans View Charities: A Report on Charitable Confidence, 2008****Paul C. Light**

Public confidence in charities is key in guaranteeing a vibrant future for treating and solving the world's most important problems...Unfortunately, public confidence in charities remains at contemporary lows.

21. Smart growth: states promote transit-oriented development**State News, vol. 51, no. 3, March 2008, pp. 22-24****Campbell, Zachary**

With the high costs of gasoline, and increasing awareness of the importance of protecting the environment, states have begun to support transit-oriented development -- compact communities centered around mass-transit systems where residents can conduct their daily affairs without needing cars. Six states -- California, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, as well as Washington DC -- have transit-oriented development policies. Most projects are financed by increased property tax revenue from land and homes in the communities formed by these transit projects. The property tax revenue increases due to appreciation of the value of land and homes around the new transit-oriented community. Transit-oriented development is driven by the growth of American metropolitan areas; the percentage of the U.S. population living in urban areas rose from 63.3 percent in 1960 to 80.3 percent in 2000. Each state has a somewhat different approach to encouraging transit-oriented development, but with a common goal of encouraging environmentally friendly construction, bringing people closer to their jobs, and decreasing car usage.

22. College for all?**Change, vol. 40, no. 1, January/February 2008, pp. 23-29****Carnevale, Anthony**

The American belief in “college for all” stems from our egalitarian nature, and is rooted in parents’ desire in upward mobility for their children. The author notes that a post-secondary education does make a significant difference in salary of a worker; between 1979 and 1999, the earnings differential between a high-school diploma and a college degree rose from 43% to 73%. The lower the education level of the worker, the lower is the proportion of jobs available to those job seekers. Carnevale writes that the popularity of post-secondary education in America is that it “has become our workforce-development system, in part because it has taken on a strong occupational and professional profile.” College in America is increasingly moving away from a purely liberal arts education, and is more focused in giving graduates specific skills that can be used in their future careers. Yet, Carnevale notes, “a liberal-arts degree topped off with a graduate or professional degree still brings the highest returns, especially when both degrees come from the most-selective postsecondary institutions.” The challenge for the United States now is that, in the face of the increasing expense of post-secondary institutions, the “college for all” promise develops into reality.

23. Riding the waves of today’s online web tools**Metz, Edward****Online, vol. 32, no. 1, January/February 2008, pp. 18-21**

The author, a librarian at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, finds that the days of Web surfing, when the user went from site to site to check on the latest content updates, are long gone, replaced by RSS feeds and online news aggregators. Now, as more productivity tools become available online and Web 2.0 social networking tools proliferate, it would certainly be helpful to have just one single platform to host and organize all of these services. The great wealth of gadgetry to choose from adds to iGoogle's attraction. The iGoogle content directory stores an

impressive array of some 25,000 content modules or gadgets, as these mini Web applications are called. For many, if not most, of their users, Google is the search engine of choice. People are also drawn to Google for its other search and productivity tools. iGoogle makes it easy to create some very simple gadgets through several templates for things like a framed photo, a personal list, or even a YouTube video channel.

24. Science and the humanities

Choice, vol. 45, no. 9, May 2008, pp. 1451-1458, 1460-1461

Shivel, Gail

The author, a lecturer in English, University of Miami, believes that the widening gap between science and the humanities is actually quite a recent phenomenon, from Copernicus's and Galileo's challenges of the religious establishment during the scientific revolution to the over-optimistic embrace by the Victorians of the possibilities for scientific answers to all the world's ills. The author begins with a discussion of the early literature, beginning with ancient times through the Renaissance and up to the early 18th century and the Enlightenment, and a discussion on whether the 20th century saw a division between humanists and scientists. The author explores the relationship between science and the mind, and science in the context of creative behavior.

25. The Phraselator II: a high-tech military device is helping to preserve the tribal languages of American Indians

The American, October 9, 2007

Capriccioso, Rob

More than 90 American Indian tribes are using the Phraselator -- a speech interpretation device developed by the U.S. military to translate Arabic words into English -- to capture words and phrases in native Indian languages before they disappear. Most tribes have very few living members who know their native tongue, and "it is increasingly rare to find young Indians who communicate with their elders in the tribal language," says author Rob Capriccioso. Don Thorton, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, paired up with Voxtec, a Maryland-based company, to adapt the Phraselator to the preservation and teaching of American Indian languages. It can record and translate both audio and video files and can store up to 85,000 words or phrases on a flash memory card. The information can then be transferred to other computers so the tribe can build up a database, create dictionaries and teach younger tribe members the language. The tribes can do it all themselves and retain the copyright on their materials. Phraselators cost about \$3,300 plus \$500 for additional software; approximately half the tribes using the device have purchased them via grants from the U.S. government.